

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 06627 280912Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
IO-13 OMB-01 AID-05 FBO-02 MCT-01 SY-05 SCS-03
DHA-02 /087 W

-----281023Z 005898 /17

R 280843Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 524
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
CINCPAC
DIA WASHDC

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EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV PINT TH
SUBJECT: COUP PLOTTERS TO BE TRIED

REF: BANGKOK 6585

1. RADIO THAILAND REPORTED MARCH 27 THAT DEFENSE
MINISTER SANGAT CHALOYU TOLD NEWSMEN THAT EVENING THAT
GEN CHALAT AND FOUR OTHER LEADERS OF ATTEMPTED COUP ON
MARCH 26 (NAMES IN REF) WILL BE TRIED FOR TREASON. SINCE
TREASON IS A CRIMINAL OFFINSE, THE POLICE, NOT THE MILITARY,
WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE HANDLING OF THIS CASE.
SANGAT SAID THAT THE COUP LEADERS WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE
THE COUNTRY FOR EXILE ABROAD, AS PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED,
BECAUSE ALL ASIAN COUNTRIES (UNNAMED) CONTACTED BY
THE RTG REFUSED TO ACCEPT THEM. AN ATTEMPT TO SEND
THEM TO TAIWAN ON MARCH 26 FAILED WHEN THE ROC REFUSED
TO ACCEPT THEM. AFP HONG KONG QUOTED A ROC FOREIGN
MINISTRY SPOKESMAN IN TAIPEI AS SAYING, "UNDER
NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHALL WE BE COERCED TO ACCEPT
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PEOPLE WHO ARE CONSIDERED BY THE THAI GOVERNMENT AS
UNDESIRABLE."

2. THE THAI PRESS REPORTS THAT THE WIDOW OF MG
ARUN THAWATHASIN (MURDERED BY THE COUP LEADERS
ON MARCH 26) ALLEGED THAT GEN CHALAT HIRANYASIRI
HIMSELF FIRED THE SHOTS THAT KILLED MG ARUN WHEN

SOLDIERS REFUSED TO DO SO.

3. GENERAL PRASOET THAMMASIRI, DEPUTY COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE RTA, WAS RUSHED TO THE ARMY HOSPITAL IMMEDIATELY AFTER HIS RELEASE BY THE COUP PLOTTERS AT ABOUT 1930 HOURS ON MARCH 26. HE IS BEING TREATED FOR SEVERE EXHAUSTION. AT THE TIME OF HIS HOSPITALIZATION, THE HOSPITAL SPOKESMAN SAID GEN PRASOET WOULD BE IN THE HOSPITAL FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS. THE RTG HAS MAINTAINED SINCE MIDMORNING OF MARCH 26 THAT GEN PRASOET WAS A HOSTAGE OF THE COUP PLOTTERS AND FORCED TO GO ALONG WITH THEM. (PRASOET HAS HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE, A HEART CONDITION, AND A LIVER AILMENT, AND IT IS UNDERSTANDABLE THAT AFTER BEING HELD BY THE COUP LEADERS FOR OVER 12 HOURS HE IS IN NEED OF A REST.)

4. THE KING, QUEEN AND THEIR THREE CHILDREN PRESIDED OVER THE BATHING RITES FOR THE LATE MG ARUN THAWATHASIN AT HIS HOME ON MARCH 27. THEIR MAJESTIES PRESENTED AN OCTAGONAL URN IN HONOR OF MG ARUN. A PROMINENT PARTICIPANT IN THE BATHING RITES WAS FORMER PRIME MINISTER THANOM KITTIKACHON.

5. THE 9 PM TO 4:30 AM CURFEW WAS IN EFFECT ONLY ON SATURDAY MARCH 26. THE CURFEW HOURS HAVE REVERTED TO 0100 TO 4:30 AM. THE MILITARY IS STILL ON 50 PERCENT ALERT.

5. COMMENT: A RECAP OF THE MAJOR INCIDENTS OF THE COUP ATTEMPT AND AN EVALUATION OF THE WHY'S AND WHEREFORE'S AS BEST WE CAN DETERMINE THEM, WILL FOLLOW IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE NEXT FEW DAYS.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, PRESS COMMENTS, EXPULSION, PLOTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770105-0679
Format: TEL
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770317/aaaaaong.tel
Line Count: 99
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8aef39b1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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Subject: COUP PLOTTERS TO BE TRIED
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TH, (SANGAT CHALOYU)
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Type: TE
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